

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Claims 19-28 are now pending. By this Amendment, claims 19-21 are amended and new claims 24-28 are added. No new matter is added.

Interview Summary

Undersigned Applicants' representative thanks Examiners Tam Tran and Kee Tung for taking the time to conduct an in-person interview on July 11, 2006. During the interview, claims 19 and 22 were discussed with respect to Schneider, as well as proposed amendments to those claims. Examiners Tran and Tung agreed that certain amendments, especially the subject matter of proposed claim A2 regarding rotational smoothing, would differentiate from Schneider and overcome the present rejection. As agreed during the interview, Schneider fails to teach or suggest sampling locations or pen instances having rotations, and only refers to individual points/pixels. To expedite allowance, Applicants now amend the claims in a manner consistent with this agreement. Applicants reserve the right to later pursue claims directed to width smoothing without additionally reciting rotational smoothing.

It was also noted during the interview that Schneider was not officially listed on a Form PTO-892, and the Examiner stated that he would do so in the next communication. Thus, Applicants do not need to file an Information Disclosure Statement citing Schneider.

Response to Rejections

Claims 19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,559,858 to Schneider et al. ("Schneider"). Applicants respectfully traverse in view of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Independent claim 19 as amended recites, for each of a plurality of sampling locations having a prior one of the sampling locations before the sampling location in an ink stroke and having a later one of the sampling locations after the sampling location in the ink stroke, determining a smoothed width at the sampling location as a combination of the determined width at the sampling location, the determined width at the prior sampling location, and the determined width at the later sampling location; and for each of the plurality of sampling locations having

the prior sampling location and the later sampling location, determining a smoothed rotation of the sampling location as a combination of the determined rotation of the sampling location, the determined rotation of the prior sampling location, and the determined rotation of the later sampling location.

As agreed during the interview, Schneider fails to teach or suggest sampling locations of an ink stroke each having a rotation, and even more so fails to teach or suggest the above recitation of amended claim 19.

Independent claim 22 recites determining a plurality of pen tip instances of the digital ink stroke, each of the pen tip instances having an associated rotation; and smoothing the rotations of the plurality of pen tip instances. As mentioned above, the Examiners agreed during the interview that Schneider fails to teach or suggest rotations of pen tip instances. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 22 distinguishes from Schneider.

In addition, the various dependent claims are allowable over Schneider by virtue of depending from allowable independent claims, and further in view of the additional features recited therein. For example, claim 26 depends from claim 22 and further recites that the step of smoothing includes, for each of the plurality of pen tip instances having a prior one of the pen tip instances before the pen tip instance in the ink stroke and having a later one of the pen tip instances after the pen tip instance in the ink stroke, determining a smoothed rotation at the pen tip instance as a combination of the rotation of the pen tip instance, the rotation of the prior pen tip instance, and the rotation of the later pen tip instance. It is submitted that Schneider fails to teach or suggest this additional claim feature.

All rejections having been addressed, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone call would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

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By: /Jordan N. Bodner/
Jordan N. Bodner
Registration No. 42,338

1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Tel: (202) 824-3000
Fax: (202) 824-3001